

## **MINUTES OF THE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION OF BC COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday, September 8, 2008**

9:30am, Cedar Room, VanDusen Gardens

**PRESENT:** Dana Richardson, Penny Koch, Barry Roberts, Linda Sears, Lynne Christmas, Ron Fawcett, Pam Harrison, Linda Derkach, Diane Hartley

Regrets: Susan Lazar, Leslie Ingram, Pat Taylor was to give a membership report, but is away.

**Note: The letters MSC used below stand for Moved, Seconded, Carried**

### **1. Minutes of Council Meeting of August 12/08 m/s/c Linda/Dana Minutes of June 10, 2008 accepted as amended m/s/c/ Pam/Barry**

#### **2. Treasurer's Report: m/s/c/ Ron/Dana**

Discussion followed re: division of budget between provincial body and Vancouver Chapter; benefits of MGABC/VanDusen relationship; new chapters might need a loan of seed money; the chapter housed at VanDusen will be called the Vancouver Chapter; Barry and Lynne will meet with the past and current chairpersons of the VBGA Board to discuss renewing our agreement; BT will be a chapter responsibility; It was m/s/c Ron/Pam to present the draft provincial & chapter budgets to the membership at the Sept.9 meeting. Ron also presented a Treasurer to Do list and proposed a motion that we close the North Shore Credit Union accounts and move the funds to an HSBC GIC. m/s/c/ Ron/Penny

#### **3. Correspondence:**

Correspondence: A letter was sent to VIMGA in response to questions raised at our August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. A formal invitation to affiliate with MGABC was sent to Victoria Master Gardeners Association explaining that they have an opportunity to have a representative on the council if they affiliate before the end of September.

#### **4. Committee Reports:**

- a) Nominations Cttee report: nomination forms are ready to distribute and will be posted on the website. Jack Grant Lynne, Barry and Robin Rance are the current committee members. Lynne will contact a couple of people who had expressed an interest in this committee, Jenny English being one, as there are supposed to be 5 according to our bylaws.
- b) Susan is away so there is no report about the workshop scheduled for Sep 19.
- c) Spring Seminar: Lynne has 4 speakers lined up: Richard Hebda will speak about climate change; Crystal Klym from the Invasive Plant Council of BC; Lindsay Coulter, the "Queen of Green" from the Suzuki Foundation; John Gibeau or Tony Lovacs from the Honey Bee Center. Joan Bentley has agreed to again look after the plant sale, although she did express a concern about the early date. Brian Campbell will again look after sea soil and compost. Barry Roberts will organize the vendors and Ron will look after them on the event day. Barry wants to ensure that the event is well advertised as the numbers were down last year. The goal this year is to have 500 attend. Dana will contact the Vancouver Sun regarding sponsorship.

#### **5. Old Business:**

- a) m/s/c/ Penny/Linda to purchase the digital projector from Barry
- b) VIMGA's offer to provide help with development of an education standards document has been referred to Jack for follow up.

#### **6. New Business:**

- a) discussion of agenda for joint meeting
- b) Council approved a draft email regarding the setting up of a South Fraser Chapter. Pat Taylor will be asked to send it out to members living in the South Fraser area. Barry is calling a meeting on Thursday, Oct 16 @ 6:30pm at the Elgin Hall on Crescent Road for any and all mgs who would be interested in a South Fraser Chapter.

- c) New Members Social: Barry brought forward a proposal to hold a meeting to encourage new members to participate in the organization. The meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17 2pm – 4pm in the Floral Hall at VanDusen and be aimed at members who have joined in the past 5 years. A social, meet and greet.
- d) Special Events: Barry brought forward the idea of having more outings for our members, the few trips that have been held were highly successful and the participants had a good learning experience and an opportunity to get to know other mgs. Council approved this idea in principal and will continue to think about it and discuss it further at future meetings.
- e) New membership cards: Barry brought forward an idea about renewal membership cards. After some discussion the idea was tabled to a future meeting.
- f) 2009 Objectives: An extended discussion of the issues various members believe are important. Such as: Barry- wants to form a Cttee to look at ways MGABC currently interfaces with the public and alternatives that might be more effective. Barry- wants a history of MGABC written up. VIMGA brought 9 suggestions to the table directed at clarifying policies and procedures within the organization. Linda Sears suggested that council could consider taking the Spring Seminar on the road occasionally, not always hold it in Burnaby. Penny would like to see plans for interaction between affiliates and clarification of the relationships and roles of chapters/provincial body/VanDusen around the basic and advanced training programs. Linda Derkach will compile all of these ideas into a workable format for discussion at the November council meeting.
- g) Richmond pesticide ban: more information is needed before council can make a decision about sending a representative to speak to Richmond City Council. Lynne will contact Brian Campbell and council will revisit this issue at a future meeting.
- h) Penny Koch will represent MGABC on the Invasive Plant Council's Hort Advisory Cttee.
- i) GardenWise has expressed an interest in posting articles from the MGABC newsletter on the Gardenwise website. m/s/c Linda/Ron that we invite GardenWise to post our newsletter articles on their website subject to permission of the author and source credit. m/s/c Linda/Ron that we place an ad in GW Healthy Garden Guide at a cost of \$505 – amendments to be made to the layout of the 2008 ad.

#### **7. Any Other Business:**

- a) Lynne reported that she had a discussion with Doreen Godwin about outsourcing BT. Doreen explained that Capilano College has cancelled their Hort courses and that most of the college's charge a great deal more than what we have been able to do it for at VanDusen. Doreen is happy to continue as BT program director. Council believes that we should continue BT as it is.
- b) Lynne explained the structure of nominations for 2009 with Vancouver Island having 2 representatives. If Victoria does not affiliate VIMGA will be able to have 2 reps. There is no allowance in our bylaws for appointing representatives to council between elections except when an elected member cannot carry on council can choose to replace that person.
- c) Reminder that next council meeting is Oct. 14.

**Meeting adjourned at: 2:00pm**

#### **Handouts attached:**

Financial Statements @ July 31/08  
2009 Draft Budget for Vancouver Chapter  
2009 Draft Budget for Provincial Council  
Treasurer's To do List @Sep/08  
Letter to VIMGA  
Letter to Victoria MGA  
LOA  
Draft email re S.Fraser Chapter  
New Member Social proposal  
Special Events proposal  
New membership cards proposal  
Richmond Pesticide Ban request for speaker  
Invitation to IPCBC Hort Advisory Cttee  
GardenWise ads and articles  
2009 Objectives – 4pages